

# 日本語ニュース

Japanese Language  
and Culture

Clovis Grove

Elementary

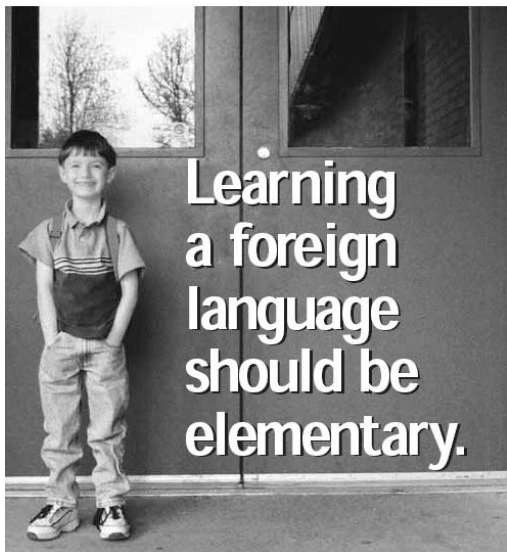
October/November 2011

## NIHONGO NEWS - JAPANESE NEWS

### こんにちは！ Konnichiwa! Hello!

Our first two months of Japanese class in Kindergarten has been very successful thanks to the support of the regular classroom teachers and you. Not only did we complete our unit on Greetings and Daily Expressions (Hello Japan!) but we learned some interesting things about Japanese culture, daily life and what they do in Japan too. For example, you can ask your children what the proper way to greet someone from Japan is.

Currently we are working on numbers and colors in Japanese class and using them to talk about our surroundings and describe things we have read in some Japanese books together. At this time of year, we practice colors as we see the changing of the seasons and practice some basic math concepts such as patterns and number order; all in Japanese! Don't forget to ask your kids about it!



Now, more than ever, our children need to learn another language. So they can communicate, understand others and compete in a global environment. For the sake of our kids, it's time to speak up for language education. Visit our website at [www.discoverlanguages.org](http://www.discoverlanguages.org) and get involved.

**Discover Languages®**  
Discover the World!  
[www.discoverlanguages.org](http://www.discoverlanguages.org)

Sponsored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

Need to get ahold of me? Please feel free to contact me anytime at the following phone number or e-mail address:

Lynn Sessler Neitzel  
Japanese Teacher, Clovis Grove  
920-967-1950  
[seesslerl@mjsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:seesslerl@mjsd.k12.wi.us)



We have been practicing two new songs in Kindergarten Japanese. They are:

Ooki na kuri no ki no shita de  
(Under the big Chestnut Tree)



And



Donguri koro koro  
(Tumbling, tumbling acorns)

**Ask your kids to sing them for you!!**

## In October/November....

Our current unit of study is "Colors and Numbers in our World". We will learn how to use colors to describe items and talk about which are our favorites. We will read some books from Japan, sing some new songs and even learn the numbers in Japanese. Did you know that the Japanese use symbols called kanji in some of their writing, which is the same as writing in Chinese? Be sure to ask your kids about it!

### Numbers and Colors in our World

#### Colors

Akai	(ah-ka-ee)	red
Aoi	(ah-oh-ee)	blue
Ki-iro	(key-ee-low)	yellow
Murasaki	(moo-lah-sah-key)	purple
Midori	(me-doh-lee)	green
Cha-iro	(chah-ee-row)	brown
Pinku	(peen-koo)	pink
Orenji	(oh-len-jee)	orange
Kuroi	(koo-row-ee)	black
Shiroi	(she-row-ee)	white

#### Numbers

1. Ichi	(ee-chee)	一
2. Ni	(knee)	二
3. San	(sahn)	三
4. Shi	(she)	四
5. Go	(go)	五
6. Roku	(row-koo)	六
7. Shichi	(she-chee)	七
8. Hachi	(ha-chee)	八
9. Kyuu	(ki-yew)	九
10. Jyuu	(joo)	十

**These are our  
numbers in Japanese  
(it is also the way  
they write them in  
Chinese!)**

## How we teach Japanese to Kindergarteners....

We will use many songs and actions to learn our concepts in Japanese throughout the year. Encourage your child to sing them to you and show you the actions. Don't be discouraged if your child cannot translate all the words for you! That is normal and we don't emphasize simultaneous translation (constant translation of each word from Japanese to English). We want your children to be "users" of the Japanese language, not translators. Ask your child to show you how and when they would "use" the language they have learned.

#### Classroom Commands

(here are a few that we use frequently in class)

Tatte	(tah-tay)	stand up
Suwatte	(sue-wah-tay)	sit down
Mitte	(me-tay)	look
Kite	(key-tay)	listen
Te o agette	(tay-oh-ah-geh-tay)	raise your hand
Mawatte	(mah-wah-tay)	turn around
Dance o shite	(dance-o-she-tay)	dance
Utatte	(oo-tah-tay)	sing
Tabete	(tah-beh-tay)	eat
Nonde	(nohn-day)	drink
Nete	(neh-tay)	sleep
Okite	(oh-key-tay)	wake up
Kazoete	(kah-zo-ee-tay)	count

### Culturally Speaking.....

- Japanese people do eat most of their meals with chopsticks (we pretend using scissor fingers in school). If you have a chance to visit a Chinese or Japanese restaurant or your family enjoys getting sushi from one of the local supermarkets, ask them for chopsticks and give it a try!
- Many people think that "sushi" means raw fish. Actually, the word sushi means "something with rice" and there are many varieties that come without fish or cooked fish. It is a very healthy food and if you like seafood you will like sushi! Give it a try sometime!

